

Finnish Chipper Chips Wood To Order

A pto-powered wood chipper from Finland turns slab wood, tree tops, thinnings and other log waste into chips that vary in size from 1/2 in. to more than 6 in. in length, depending on the size machine and screw, says John Egenolf, Driftwood Farm & Services. Egenolf uses and markets the chippers in North America.

"We needed high quality chips for our gasification system," explains Egenolf. "An increasing number of wood boilers come from Europe, and they require standardized chips as well. These chippers produce a uniform chip with very fine fines."

Egenolf says the Finnish chipper uses a conical design with cutting screws instead of the more common drum and blade design found in North America.

"You can buy one chipper and different size screws to make different size chips," says Egenolf.

Finnish manufacturer Laimet makes a wide variety of pto and diesel-powered

chippers, as well as some electric-powered units. The smallest chipper Egenolf markets is the HP21, priced at \$24,500 (Canadian). It requires a tractor with 85 to 90 pto hp and can handle wood and branches up to 6 1/2 in. in diameter.

Customers can select from 8 different screw blades and 5 different chip sizes between 1/2 in. and 4 in. in length. Production volume varies from 26 to 52 cu. yds./hr., depending on the screw as well as type and size of wood being processed.

"Europe has set standards for different chip sizes, and these screw blades produce to those standards," explains Egenolf. "Since we have no such standards in North America, we send out sample chips for customers to identify the screw blade they want."

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Pto-powered wood chipper from Finland lets customers select from 8 different screw blades and 5 different chip sizes, between 1/2 in. and 4 in. in length.

"Revolving" Target Makes Shooting Fun

In an effort to make target shooting more fun, John Dodge of Cheshire, Ore., designed a "revolving" rifle target that spins on the hub of an ordinary bicycle wheel.

The target is designed for competitive shooting of .22 caliber long rifle rounds. Four diamond-shaped metal targets are suspended from a bicycle wheel that mounts horizontally on top of a stand made from a 5-ft. length of 1/2-in. dia. electrical conduit. The wheel is free to rotate on the bicycle's original wheel bearing.

The 4 targets are made from 3-in. sq., 1/4-in. thick steel that's welded to metal spikes that attach to high tension fence wire strung around the rim. The head of each spike is heated and pounded and then a hole is drilled into it, through which the fence wire passes. The top of the spike is free to move inside a notch cut into the wheel rim.

Each target has an orange side and a green side. The opponents stand side by side at least 25 ft. from the target and pick a color. The

force of the bullets hitting the targets causes the wheel to rotate, and the faster it rotates the more the targets fly out at an angle, which increases the challenge.

"It's a lot of fun," says Dodge. "You have to change your sight picture, depending on how fast your opponent is hitting the targets on the other side of the wheel. The wheel can revolve quite fast. However, the more targets the other guy hits, the more the wheel slows down. You have to pay attention to where you're shooting and time it. You don't see the targets as they rotate in line with the stand, so you're always shooting off to the side. You're never shooting at the center so nothing gets torn up.

"We're on our fourth prototype of the target. This one has endured more than 100,000 rounds with no problems."

Dodge brazed a nut from the bicycle wheel's axle shaft into the end of the stand. "When I'm done shooting I just unscrew the wheel from the pipe and take it home," he



"Revolving" rifle target spins on the hub of an ordinary bicycle wheel, propelled by the force of the bullets hitting the diamond-shaped metal targets.

says.

The target stand can be seen on youtube by searching up: eits420.

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How To Set Up Your Own On-Farm FM Station

Rodney Rogers enjoys the alternative radio stations available through his satellite internet service at home. Now he can listen to them on an ordinary FM radio within about 15 miles of his home via a low power FM transmitter and his own FM frequency.

After testing a variety of transmitters, antennas and cables, he came up with a combination that delivers quality transmission at a reasonable price. As a sideline business he now offers a 4 amp/12v DC, 1/20-watt transmitter, cable and antenna package for \$445 to anyone interested in setting up their own "station" to listen to in the farm shop, tractors or anywhere else near home.

Setup is basic. Plug a cable into the headphone jack on your computer, iPod, CD player or whatever source you choose for audio. Hook up the transmitter and select one of the open frequencies between 88-108 on the FM dial. (Type in your zip code at <http://radio-locator.com/cgi-bin/vacant> to find unused frequencies on the FM dial.)

Rogers customers have included a missionary in Mexico who wanted to broadcast ministry related information. One was purchased for a community as a communications backup system because it can be run off a 12-volt battery if the power is out.

Another customer purchased a system to broadcast his viewpoint about a local

property tax referendum. He taped a short message with facts he didn't think were being broadcast through mainstream media, then hired a clown with a sign to walk down main street. The message was to tune to his FM channel that broadcasted his message.

Rogers notes there's some controversy regarding freedom of speech and the legality of using a frequency. He compares it to CBs, which were initially regulated, and eventually became self-regulated. He believes there won't be problems if users have good manners and don't interfere with local stations.

He adds that a microphone can be hooked to the system so a wife can pass a message to her husband out in the field.

Rogers notes that there are cheaper products, and equipment is readily available through eBay and other internet sites. He tested various equipment and believes that his HLLY transmitter paired with 50-OHM cable and a military-spec antenna is a good system for the price.

In his own testing, he's gotten reception with no distortion for 14 miles with the antenna on high ground with optimal line of sight.

"I have acquired a 30-watt transmitter that is somewhat better. But to double your range you have to quadruple your wattage," Rogers says.



Rodney Rogers set up his own on-farm FM radio station so he can listen to radio stations available through his satellite internet service at home.

Currently he sets up his FM station for one internet station he likes to listen to all the time. But he's certain there are ways to remotely change the channel or tap into a CD player - during commercials, for example. "I just want to share the possibilities," he

says. "It up to the end user, how it might help them, their neighbors and their community."

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